AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A USB flash bay for an information handling system, comprising:

a USB hub communicatively coupled with a USB port;

a flash card reader controller communicatively coupled with a flash card slot, the flash card reader controller interfacing with the USB hub, the flash card reader being operable as a USB mass storage device; and

a faceplate including the USB port and the flash card slot,

wherein the USB flash bay is suitable for being integrated in a drive bay of the information handling system and the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay and a housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.

2. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of integrating in at least one of a standard three and one-half inch external drive bay and a five and one-fourth inch external drive bay disposed within the information handling system.

3. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus.

4. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus by communicatively

coupling with a communication and networking riser disposed within the information handling system assembly.

5. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay houses a universal serial bus hub communicatively coupled with at least four USB ports.

6. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay houses a flash card reader controller communicatively coupled with at least five flash card slots.

7. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of being enclosed in a housing.

8. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay is enclosed in a housing including a connector port adapter suitable for connecting with a variety of information handling systems.

9. (Currently Amended) A drive bay assembly, comprising:

an external drive bay disposed within an information handling system;

a USB flash bay including a USB hub and a flash card reader controller interfacing with the USB hub, the flash card reader controller being operable as a USB mass storage device; and

a faceplate disposed upon the USB flash bay, the faceplate including a USB port communicatively coupled to the USB hub and a flash card slot communicatively coupled to the flash card reader controller,

wherein the USB flash bay is suitable for being integrated in the external drive bay of the information handling system and the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for securing the USB flash bay and a housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.

10. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of integrating in at least one of a standard three and one-half inch external drive

bay and a five and one-fourth inch external drive bay disposed within the information handling system.

11. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus.

12. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus by communicatively coupling with a communication and networking riser disposed within the information handling system assembly.

13. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay houses a USB hub communicatively coupled with at least four USB ports.

14. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay houses a flash card reader controller communicatively coupled with at least five flash card slots.

15. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of being enclosed in a housing.

16. (Original) The drive bay assembly of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay is enclosed in a housing including a connector port adapter suitable for connecting with a variety of information handling systems.

17. (Currently Amended) An information handling system, comprising:
an enclosure;
an external drive bay disposed within the enclosure;
a USB flash bay including a USB hub and a flash card reader controller interfacing with the USB hub, the flash card reader controller being operable as a USB mass storage device; and

a faceplate disposed upon the USB flash bay, the faceplate including a USB port communicatively coupled to the USB hub and a flash card slot communicatively coupled to the flash card reader controller,

wherein the USB flash bay is suitable for being integrated in the external drive bay of the enclosure and the USB flash bay includes a latching mechanism for facilitating efficient integration and a housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.

18. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of integrating in at least one of a standard three and one-half inch external drive bay and a five and one-fourth inch external drive bay disposed within the enclosure.

19. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus.

20. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of connecting to a peripheral power source and universal serial bus by communicatively coupling with a communication and networking riser disposed within the information handling system assembly.

21. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay houses a USB hub communicatively coupled with at least four USB ports.

22. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay houses a flash card reader controller communicatively coupled with at least five flash card slots.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The information handling system of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay is enclosed in a housing including a connector port adapter suitable for connecting with a variety of information handling systems.

25. (Currently Amended) A USB flash bay for an information handling system, comprising:
means for an external drive bay disposed within the information handling system;
means for a USB flash bay including a USB port and a flash card slot;
means for integrating the USB flash bay in the external drive bay; ~~and~~
means for connecting the USB flash bay with the information handling system; and
means for shielding electromagnetic interference

26. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 25, wherein the external drive bay is at least one of a standard three and one-half inch external drive bay and a five and one-fourth inch external drive bay.

27. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 25, wherein the means for a USB flash bay is a faceplate containing the USB port and the flash card slot, wherein a USB hub is communicatively coupled with the USB port and interfaced with a flash card reader controller which is communicatively coupled with the flash card slot.

28. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 25, wherein the integrating means includes physically locating the USB flash bay within the external drive bay

29. (Original) The USB flash bay of claim 25, wherein the connecting means is through a communicative coupling of the USB flash bay with a communication and networking riser slot disposed within the information handling system, which is capable of providing power and a connection with the universal serial bus of the information handling system.

30. (Original) The information handling system of claim 25, wherein the USB flash bay is capable of being enclosed in a housing.

31. (Original) The information handling system of claim 25, wherein the USB flash bay is enclosed in a housing including a connector port adapter suitable for connecting with a variety of information handling systems.

32. (New) The USB flash bay of claim 1, wherein the USB flash bay includes the housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.

33. (New) The USB flash bay of claim 9, wherein the USB flash bay includes the housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.

34. (New) The USB flash bay of claim 17, wherein the USB flash bay includes the housing configured to shield electromagnetic interference.